

ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION DEFINITIONS 4:

- ACOUSTICAL CEILING:** A ceiling covered by, or formed of, an acoustical material that is especially designed to absorb sound.
- BALUSTER:** A short vertical member, often circular in section, used to support a stair handrail or a guardrail.
- BALUSTRADE:** An entire railing system including a top rail, balusters, and sometimes a bottom rail.
- BULKHEAD:** A structure covering an opening, shaft, or service equipment that provides adequate headroom.
- CEILING SUSPENSION SYSTEM:** A system of metal members designed to support a suspended ceiling, typically an acoustical ceiling.
- DORMER:** A structure projecting from a sloping roof usually housing a window or ventilation louver.
- DOWNSPOUT:** A vertical pipe used to conduct water from a roof drain or gutter to the ground.
- EAVES:** The lower edge of a sloping roof; that part of a roof of a building which projects beyond the wall.
- FALSE CEILING:** A secondary ceiling formed to provide space for services (such as ductwork, piping, wiring) above it.
- FLASHING:** A thin impervious material placed in construction (e.g., in mortar joints, around windows and doors, roof penetrations) to prevent water penetration and/or provide water drainage.
- GABLE:** The vertical triangular portion of the end of a building having a double-sloping roof.
- GUARDRAIL:** A railing that is usually installed along open sided stairs or raised areas, where the floor is more than 30" below, that prevents persons from falling.
- GUTTER:** A shallow channel of metal immediately below and along the eaves of a building to catch and carry off rainwater from the roof.
- HANDRAILING:** Any openwork construction or rail used as a barrier or the like.
- HIP:** The external angle at the junction of two sloping roofs or sides of a roof.
- ICE DAM SHIELD:** A rubber membrane installed under the roofing material to prevent the build up of snow and ice at the eaves of a sloping roof.
- MANSARD:** A roof having a double slope on all four sides, the lower being much steeper.
- NEWEL:** The central post or column around which the steps of a circular staircase wind, and which provides support for the staircase. Also the ending post on the open sided staircase where the handrail terminates into.
- NOSING:** The prominent, usually rounded, horizontal edge which extends beyond an upright face below; as the projection of a tread beyond a riser.
- OVERHANG:** The projection of an upper story or beyond a story immediately below.
- PARAPET:** A low guarding wall at any point of sudden drop, as at the edge of a roof.
- PITCH/SLOPE:** The slope of a roof, usually expressed as a ratio of vertical rise to horizontal run.
- RIDGE:** The horizontal line at the junction of the upper most edges of two sloping roof surfaces.
- RISE:** The height of a flight of stairs from landing to landing; the height between successive treads of a stair.
- RISE & RUN:** The pitch of an inclined surface or member, usually expressed as the ratio of the vertical rise to the horizontal run.
- RISER:** The vertical face of a stair step.
- RUBBER ROOF:** A highly resilient material, typically used to cover flat or low sloped roofs.
- RUN:** The horizontal distance from the face of a wall to the ridge of the roof. Additionally, it is the width of a single stair tread.
- SADDLE/CRICKET:** A small saddle-shaped projection on a sloping roof; used to divert water around an obstacle such as a chimney.
- SHED ROOF:** A roof shape having only one sloping plane.

SHINGLE: A roofing material of cut stock lengths, widths, and thickness; used as an exterior covering on sloped roofs and side walls; applied in an overlapping fashion.

SOFFIT: The exposed undersurface of any overhead component of a building, such as an arch, balcony, beam, roof eave.

SPINDLE: A short turned part as in a baluster.

SPIRAL STAIR: A flight of stairs, circular in plan, whose treads wind around a central newel.

STAIR HEADROOM: The clear vertical clearance height measured from the nosing of a stair tread to any overhead obstruction.

STRINGER: An inclined board which supports the end of the steps.

SUSPENDED ACOUSTICAL CEILING: An acoustical ceiling which is suspended from the building structure above.

TREAD: The horizontal part of a step; includes the nosing.